

Remarks

Applicants and their representatives wish to thank Examiner Malek for her generous cooperation in allowing the present application and claims after the final Office Action. Claim 49 has been amended to correct a clerical and/or grammatical error therein. This amendment does not introduce new issues and does not require substantive examination.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Reasons for allowance are only warranted in instances in which "the record of the prosecution as a whole does not make clear the Examiner's reasons for allowing a claim or claims." 37 C.F.R. 1.104(e). In the present case, Applicants believe the record as a whole makes clear the reasons for allowance, and therefore, no statement by the Examiner is necessary or warranted. Therefore, the record should reflect that Applicants do not necessarily agree with all of the statements in the reasons for allowance.

For example, in the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner identified reasons for allowing all of the claims of the application in a single sentence. In part, the identified reasons do not pay full attention to the fact that, while much of the identified subject matter appears in the independent claims, some of the subject matter does not. While Applicants agree that each of allowed claims distinguish over the prior art of record, the claims should be interpreted only by the subject matter that is actually present therein.

Applicants are submitting these comments to ensure that the claims are properly construed based only upon limitations that are actually present therein and/or to ensure that the claims are not interpreted so as to include any additional claim limitations that are not actually present therein.

Atty. Docket No. MP0307
Application No: 10/623,031

Conclusions

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is in condition for issue. Early notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1236 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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